and provision of specialised equipments like night vision devices to the forces for greater vigilance along the International Borders of the country to check infiltration and other subversive activities. Neighbouring countries viz; Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan have been sensitised on our security concerns and coordination mechanism have been established for exchange of intelligence and for initiating action against subversive elements.

Hijacking episode

1441. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the bargain ultimately struck with the hijackers of Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 went against the spirit of the declaration adopted at the all parties meeting held on December 27, 1999 to discuss the hijacking issue;

(b) if not, how Government let the initiative pass into the hands of the hijackers by allowing the plane to take off from Amritsar; and

(c) whether the release of Maulana Masood Azhar, Mustaq Zargar and Syed Ahmed Umar Sheikh, represents a surrender by the Indian Government in its fight against extremism in Kashmir Valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) In handling the situation arising from the hijacking, Government set itself three clear priorities; (i) the early termination of the hijacking; (ii) the safe return of the passengers, crew and aircraft; and (iii) safeguarding national security. The manner in which the termination of the hijacking was secured met the priorities Government had set out.

(b) When the aircraft landed at Amritsar, concrete and sepcific information in respect of the numbers, nationality, weaponry, professionalism and commitment of the hijacker was scanty and speculative. On the other hand, messages being received from the

hijacked airciaft were tense and demanding. Precipitate action, in the absence of even basic information was judged as being fraught with unacceptable levels of risk.

(c) No, Sir. Government remains firm in its resolve to combat all forms of terrorism and preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Undertrials In Tihar

1442. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of undertrials in Tihar Jail, year-wise;

(b) how many of them are foreigners; and

(c) whether it is a fact that undertrial prisoners are also treated as convicts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The requisite details as on the first day of January of the years 1997 to 2000 are given below:

Year	Total number of undertrials	Number of foreigners who are undertrials
1977	8092	128
1998	7764	174
1999	8288	187
2000	8849	243

(c) No, Sir.